



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the City Council of the City of La Cañada Flintridge to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Stephen A. Del Guercio, Laura Olhasso, Anthony J. Portantino, Mayor Pro Tem David Spence, and Mayor Gregory C. Brown

Staff members present: City Manager Alexander, Director of Public Works Castellanos, Director of Community Development Stanley, City Treasurer Voss, City Engineer Kwan, Senior Management Analyst Goytia Strauss, Public Safety Coordinator Stegner, Management Analyst Alameda, Management Analyst Wilson, Joanne Bortfeld, Senior Accountant and City Clerk Sessman

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Brown opened the public comment period. There were no comments from the public.

OTHER BUSINESS

This matter is continued from June 22, 2006 City Council meeting.

1. REVIEW OF THE FY 2006-07 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN AND THE FY 2006-07 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

Consideration and discussion among and between the City Council and staff proceeded regarding the following budget items as detailed in the Preliminary Budget & Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2006-07 and Council Consideration Items:

Budget Recap

City Manager Alexander distributed and briefly discussed the recap of the June 19, 2006 and June 22, 2006 meetings.

Councilmember Del Guercio stated that he was recusing himself from any discussions of items pertaining to a current or future contract with the County of Los Angeles, since the County is a source of income to his firm.

Councilmember Portantino stated that he was recusing himself from any discussions of items pertaining to Memorial Park or La Cañada Boulevard, since his home is located on La Cañada Boulevard. Councilmember Portantino stepped off the dais and left the Council Chambers.

Mayra del Valle, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed her thanks for the implementation of the Carline program at La Canada Elementary School, but stated that safety is still an issue and expressed her desire to see the City Council support and fund the La Canada Boulevard Sidewalk Project. In addition, she expressed concern that the hedge on the corner of Lasheart and Salisbury has not yet been cut back.

With the item concluded, Councilmember Portantino re-entered the Council Chambers and took his place at the dais.

Salary & Benefits

City Manager Alexander presented a brief summary of the City's salary and benefits. In response to inquiries by Councilmembers, he stated that the PERS retirement rates are expected to increase for the City and that the City has budgeted for the City's contribution at 22% next year.

Council Consideration Items

General Fund Personnel

A1 – Senior Civil Engineer (New Position)

Director Castellanos presented the request and explained that, in order to keep up with the heavy workload and maintain the high level of quality service expected by the residents, it is necessary to augment the current staff level by one additional position with a Senior Civil Engineer. He explained that this position will provide the Department with the assistance required to advance the Capital Improvement Program, while also allowing the department the flexibility to fill in the gaps in areas where day-to-day support and assistance is needed.

Following a brief discussion by the City Council, City Manager Alexander suggested that staff bring back an analysis of this position at the Wednesday, June 28, 2006 meeting. There were no objections.

Councilmember Olhasso stated that this cost analysis has been done before and felt we don't need to spend time doing it again. She expressed her support for the position as a temporary three year position.

Mayor Brown and Councilmember Portantino expressed their support for comments made by Councilmember Olhasso.

A2 – Planner (New Position)

Director Stanley presented the request and explained that in May, 2006, the City Council approved amendments to the Zoning ordinance that would increase the number of discretionary Planning reviews required prior to obtaining building permits in the City. He explained that this request would address the anticipated significant increase in workload.

A3 – Upgrade of Planning Aide to Assistant Planner

Director Stanley presented the request and explained that the Planning Aide position no longer meets the needs of the department. He explained that the type of work to be performed, and the level of expertise necessary to do the job, will require a higher level Planning position.

City Manager Alexander noted that, in addition to the above mentioned requests, the Planning Department has submitted for Council Consideration an additional item requesting the hiring of a Contractor for a Code Enforcement Officer.

B4 – Code Enforcement Cost Recovery Contract

Director Stanley presented the request and explained that he is requesting to contract with a firm to provide code enforcement services to handle the specialized work and to assist the department in the development of a cost recovery program to partially offset the cost of the contract code enforcement service.

In response to inquiries by the City Council, Director Stanley stated that Code Enforcement has become a full-time job. He explained that code enforcement cases have more than doubled since 2002. He explained that another aspect of code enforcement involves the cases referred to the City Prosecutor, currently 16 cases, which requires significant amounts of time to prepare reports, conduct follow-up inspections, attend office meetings and numerous court appearances.

Operations & Maintenance

B1 – Engineering & Traffic Speed Survey Updates

Director Castellanos presented the request. In response to questions by the City Council he explained that the City's current Engineering and Traffic (E&T) speed Surveys were last updated in 1998. He stated that these surveys must be updated every five to seven years to ensure the speeds reflect current conditions as dictated by the vehicle code. He stated the current E&T Survey is over the seven year limit.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Portantino, Director Castellanos stated that this project cannot be funded through Proposition A or C.

Councilmember Portantino requested that staff look into whether AQMD funds can be used for this project. There were no objections.

B2 – Arroyo Seco Watershed Management & Restoration

Councilmember Portantino pointed out that the City Council has already committed itself to this project but has not yet designated the funds for the project.

B3 – General Plan Update

Director Stanley presented the request.

B4 – Code Enforcement Cost Recovery Contract

Director Stanley stated that this item was discussed earlier this morning under Council Consideration items, Personnel.

B5 – Contract Code Enforcement Officer

Mayor Brown stated that this item was discussed earlier this morning under Council Consideration items, Personnel, and inquired whether the City Council had any additional questions. There were no additional questions.

B6 – Funding a Bicycle Race in the City of La Cañada Flintridge

Management Analyst Alameda presented the request and provided a brief report on the proposed program.

Following a brief discussion, the City Council requested that a representative from the Parks and Recreation Commission be present to discuss the proposed project at the Wednesday, June 28, 2006 meeting.

Capital Projects

D1 – Lanterman Auditorium – Refinishing of Hard Wood Flooring

Mayor Brown stated that this item was discussed earlier this morning

D2 – Planning Department Modular Furnishings

Mayor Brown stated that this item was discussed earlier this morning

D3 – Electronic Speed Awareness Display Sign

Director Castellanos presented the request.

D4 – Cabling Improvements to Council Chambers

City Manager Alexander presented the request.

D5 – Flint Canyon Trail Improvements (Xsfr. Out – to B&G)

City Manager Alexander presented the request.

D6 – Rockridge Terrace to YMCA Trail (Xsfr. Out – to B&G)

City Manager Alexander presented the request.

D7 – Red Route Bikeway Corr. (Xsfr. Out – to B&G)

Management Analyst Wilson pointed out that the City Council has already committed itself to this project but has not yet designated the funds.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

Councilmembers' reports regarding regional and local representation - *None*

Councilmembers' requests for future agenda items - *None*

Councilmembers' comments - *None*

City Manager and/or staff comments

City Manager Alexander stated that the City Council would meet on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. to continue budget deliberations.

Interview of General Plan Consultants Conduct (Continued from June 22, 2006 Special Meeting)

At this point, a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Spence, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio to adjourn and continue the discussion of the General Plan Consultants to the June 28, 2006 Special City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Kathleen R. Sessman
City Clerk

Minutes Approved by the City Council on September 18, 2006.